Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KABUL 04624 071242Z
ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 HA-05 OMB-01
TRSE-00 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00
SSO-00 L-03 H-01 EB-08 MMO-01 PC-01 /118 W
----------095111 071247Z /64
P 071200Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8429

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 4624

PASS AID AND PEACE CORPS; AID FOR NE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, AF
SUBJECT: FUTURE OF U.S. AID PROGRAMS IN AFGHANISTAN

REF: STATE 136820

1. USAID DIRECTOR GRADER, PEACE CORPS COUNTRY DIRECTOR BALDINO AND I HAVE COMPLETED OUR INITIAL CALLS ON ALL THE AFGHAN CABINET MINISTERS WHO ARE INVOLVED WITH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN WHICH AID AND PEACE CORPS HAVE BEEN PARTICIPATING. DETAILS OF THESE DISCUSSIONS WITH EACH MINISTER ARE CONTAINED SEPTELS.

2. IN GENERAL, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONVEY TO THESE MINISTERS OUR INTEREST IN CONTINUING AN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN AFGHANISTAN AND THE BALL IS NOW IN THEIR COURT TO TELL US WHERE THEY WANT OUR HELP. GIVEN THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S OVERWHELMING RELIANCE ON THE SOVIET BLOC, WE SHOULD NOT OVERESTIMATE, HOWEVER, THE POLITICAL ADVANTAGES WE MIGHT DERIVE FROM CONVEYING OUR INTEREST IN THE AID FIELD. BUT WE SHOULD HAVE DISPELLED ANY AFGHAN DOUBTS ABOUT OUR INTENTIONS AND ARE NOW IN A POSITION TO COUNTER ANY AFGHAN CLAIMS THAT THE U.S. IS NOT WILLING TO HELP.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KABUL 04624 071242Z

3. REGARDING SPECIFIC PRESENT AND POTENTIAL AID PROJECTS, THE RESULTS OF OUR CALLS ARE A MIXED BAG. SOME MINISTERS, NOTABLY AGRICULTURE AND PUBLIC HEALTH, SHOWED VIRTUALLY NO KNOWLEDGE OF AID PROJECTS AND LITTLE APPARENT INTEREST IN THEM. THE MINISTER OF PLANNING SHOWED INTEREST ONLY IN THE HELMAND VALLEY, BOTH OUR ONGOING PROJECT AND POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL CAPITAL ASSISTANCE.

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

THE MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHOWED SOME INTEREST, BUT ALSO INDICATED THAT THE PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED PROJECTS MAY REQUIRE REDESIGN. THE MINISTER OF WATER AND POWER WANTS TO MOVE FORWARD ON THE HELMAND. THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION IS A BALL OF FIRE, EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN AID ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL PRIMARY EDUCATION, AND SAID HE WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH.

4. IN SUM, THERE SO FAR EXISTS LITTLE OR NO DANGER OF OUR GOING BEYOND THE EXPLORATORY STAGE, EXCEPT POSSIBLY WITH RESPECT TO THE HELMAND, BECAUSE THE AFGHANS THEMSELVES -- FOR WHATEVER REASON -- ARE NOT PREPARED TO GET DOWN TO BRASS TACKS WITH US AT THE PRESENT TIME.

5. IF THE AID PICTURE IS A MIXED BAG, SO IS THE PEACE CORPS PICTURE. PEACE CORPS COUNTRY DIRECTOR BALDINO ACCOMPANIED ME ON ALL THE ABOVE-MENTIONED CALLS EXCEPT WATER AND POWER. ONLY THE MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS -- FOUR IN NUMBER. THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION SEEMED SOMEWHAT INTERESTED IN PEACE CORPS ASSISTANCE. THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE SAID HE DID NOT WANT PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS BECAUSE HE FELT THAT THEY TENDED TO CREATE AN UNDESIRABLE DEPENDENCY ON FOREIGNERS AND THAT HE HAS ENOUGH TRAINED AFGHANS TO GET BY. THE MINISTER OF PLANNING EXPRESSED INTEREST ONLY IN THE IDEA THAT PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS
CONFIDENTIAL

MIGHT BE USED IN CONNECTION WITH AID PROJECTS. THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH COMPLAINED ABOUT THE POOR QUALIFICATIONS OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS IN THE PAST. BALDINO IS FOLLOWING UP AT THE WORKING LEVEL OF ALL THESE MINISTRIES.

6. I HAVE ALSO NOW CALLED ON FOUR OTHER CABINET MINISTERS INVOLVED WITH ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS, NAMELY, THE MINISTERS OF COMMERCE, FINANCE, MINES AND INDUSTRIES, AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS. FROM THESE INITIAL CONTACTS, IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT THE COMPETENCE OF THE ECONOMIC SIDE OF THE NEW CABINET IS ALSO A MIXED BAG. SOME -- LIKE THE MINISTERS OF EDUCATION, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS -- APPEAR TO BE FIRST RATE. OTHERS -- LIKE COMMERCE, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND AGRICULTURE -- APPEAR TO HAVE MINIMAL COMPETENCE IN THE AREAS FOR WHICH THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE. GIVEN THE FACT THAT VIRTUALLY ALL DEPUTY MINISTERS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS HAVE ALSO BEEN REPLACED, IT IS HARD TO RESIST THE CONCLUSION THAT THE NEW REGIME WILL HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME ACHIEVING ANY TIME SOON ITS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC GOALS. ITS TRUMP CARD, HOWEVER, REMAINS THE POSSIBILITY OF MASSIVE SOVIET BLOC ASSISTANCE, BOTH TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL.

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

ELIOT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, HEALTH, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KABUL04624
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780237-0927
Format: TEL
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780687/aaaacwtb.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 58405e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 136820
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2458012
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FUTURE OF U.S. AID PROGRAMS IN AFGHANISTAN
TAGS: EAID, AF, US, PC, (ELIOT, THEODORE E)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/58405e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014